

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
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S E C R E T DUBLIN 0326

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, US, CG, ZA, EI

SUBJECT: MPLA RECOGNITION AND ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA/ZAIRE

REF: STATE 37690

1. IRELAND RECOGNIZED THE "STATE OF ANGOLA" THIS AFTERNOON. IN ANNOUNCING THE RECOGNITION FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD SAID "THIS DECISION WAS TAKEN CONSEQUENT ON THE FULFILLMENT IN ANGOLA OF THE CONDITIONS IRELAND GENERALLY APPLIES IN REGARD TO THE RECOGNITION OF STATES. THE IRISH PRACTICE IS TO EXTEND FORMAL RECOGNITION TO STATES RATHER THAN TO GOVERNMENTS AS SUCH." FITZGERALD ALSO NOTED THAT SEVERAL OF THE EC 9 COUNTRIES HAD ALREADY RECOGNIZED THE MPLA. HE EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THERE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN A JOINT EC 9 ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECOGNITION.

2. EMBOFF DISCUSSED ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE WITH MFA COUNSELLOR JEREMY CRAIG, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS, INTER ALIA. HE AGREED THAT BOTH ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE COULD

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BE IN FOR GREAT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND SAID THAT ALTHOUGH

IRELAND WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO EXTEND BILATERAL AID, WORKING THROUGH THE EC AND PARTICULARLY THROUGH THE LOME CONVENTION STRUCTURE, IT WOULD ATTEMPT TO BE HELPFUL IN THIS MATTER. IN SPECULATING ON THE FUTURE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA CRAIG WAS RATHER PESSIMISTIC. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE BELIEVED THE MPLA LEADERS WOULD BE WILLING TO COME TO SOME KIND OF TACIT UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS IN ORDER TO GIVE THEM TIME TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR RULE, AND RESTORE INFRA-STRUCTURE, HE WAS NOT AT ALL SANGUINE THAT THE CUBANS AND RUSSIANS WOULD BE WILLING TO PACK UP AND LEAVE. THERE IS A GOOD POSSIBILITY OF ARMED CLASHES BETWEEN THE CUBANS AND THE SOUTH AFRICANS IN NAMIBIA. HE IS HOPING THAT THE RUSSIANS WILL BE RATIONAL ENOUGH TO REALIZE THAT THE CUBANS ARE NO MATCH MILITARILY FOR THE SOUTH AFRICANS, ESPECIALLY IF, AS HE BELIEVES, THE SOUTH AFRICANS WILL MAKE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT THEY WILL FIGHT IN NAMIBIA. ANOTHER SERIOUS POSSIBILITY, ACCORDING TO CRAIG, IS THAT THE CUBANS WILL BE FERRIED TO MOZAMBIQUE AND WILL BE USED IN AN ATTACK ON RHODESIA. CRAIG DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT ZAMBIA IS IN ANY DANGER FROM THE SECURITY STANDPOINT AS ANY ATTACK ON ZAMBIA WOULD SWING A MAJORITY OF THE OAU AROUND TO AN ANTI-MPLA STANCE. HOWEVER, THE SAME IS NOT TRUE FOR ZAIRE, HE SAID.

3. CRAIG MADE IT PLAIN THAT THE IRISH ARE UPSET WITH THE FRENCH DECISION TO BREAK RANKS ON RECOGNITION. HE SAID THAT THE CURRENT SPECULATION WAS THAT THE FRENCH, HAVING BEEN SEVERELY ATTACKED BY THE OAU OF LATE, WERE TRYING TO MAKE POINTS FOR THEIR AFRICA POLICY. CRAIG HIMSELF BELIEVES THAT THIS INDICATES ALSO AN ELEMENT OF THE "TWO TIER" THEORY WHICH THE FRENCH SEEM TO FAVOR. RENDAHL

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION INSERTED PER MACFARLANE, S/S-O

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